(*b*) whether Government have asked the opinion of the private colleges in the State on the question of their affiliation with the Travancore University; and

(*c*) the terms on which the affiliation referred to in clause (*a*) is proposed?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):*

(*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise in view of answer to (*a*) above.

WOODEN BRICKS—MANUFACTURE AND DISPOSAL BY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

102. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government have during the last 5 years manufactured wooden bricks or parquetes;

(*b*) if so, the number of such parquetes manufactured and the purpose for which they were made;

(*c*) whether there were some unused ones with the Public Works Department, and if so, how many;

(*d*) how were they disposed of and the amount realised?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) No.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) No reply is necessary in view of the answer to sub-division (*a*).

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Have they purchased any if they have not manufactured them?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* During the last 5 years they have not purchased or manufactured.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Have they disposed of some during the last five years?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes. In auction.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* How many of them were disposed of?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The number I cannot say off hand. The cost is about Rs. 500.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Were they sold in auction or by tender?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It was sold in auction.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Who purchased it?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* One local man in Trippunittura.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* What was the amount realised?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It was sold for about Rs. 5.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* May I know the number?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I don't know.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Rs. 500 cost of bricks fetched Rs. 5 only!

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* They were mainly about 18 to 20 years old and some were damaged. It was not useful to us.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* What was the timber used?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Consists of several species. Jackwood, Teakwood, Rosewood, Kormaruthu.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Ebony?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Ebony also.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Was publicity given for the sale?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* For giving publicity we used tom tom.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Where was the auction sale held?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* At the Hill Palace.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Was there only one bidder?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* There were others. But this was the highest amount of bid.

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Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Was the auction held only once?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Was there any publication of it in papers?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* These matters are not generally published in papers.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Before an auction is held of Government materials is it not generally advertised in papers?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* In the case of auctions of small dismantled materials it is not the practice of the department to publish it in the papers. The usual practice is to inform the public by means of tom tom, and many people used to come.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Who was the officer responsible for the sale?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The sale was conducted by the Assistant Engineer, Southern Division, and the Overseer also.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Is it not the usual practice to ask the Government auctioneers to conduct the sale?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Then, why were they not asked to sell this?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I am not sure whether the appointment of Malabar Corporation as Government auctioneers preceded this.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* What is the approximate date of the sale?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I think it was in 1113.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* The Government auctioneers were not appointed then?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I am not sure of that. Even if the Government Auctioneers were appointed it was not the invariable practice to give all auctions to them.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Were they sold after getting the permission of the Chief Engineer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* According to the devolution of powers it was not necessary to get the Chief

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Engineer's sanction for the auction of dismantled materials. Not even for confirmation.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Is it not the practice that if proper price is not offered the auctions are postponed for another date?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* In case the Assistant Engineer considered that a proper price has not been offered it is open to him to postpone the sale.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* What was the objection to the Government to postpone the sale when articles costing Rs. 500 were bid for Rs. 5?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The Assistant Engineer considered that the auction was reasonable looking at the condition of the materials.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Did it come to the notice of the Chief Engineer that these articles were sold for Rs. 5?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Not at the time.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Did it come to his notice afterwards?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Was any explanation called for from the Assistant Engineer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I have asked about it.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Did the Chief Engineer consider that Rs. 5 was an adequate price of the articles?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I have not seen the articles at the time of the auction.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Am I to take it that the Chief Engineer has not enquired whether Rs. 5 is adequate price for articles purchased for Rs. 500?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* We are getting the explanation of the Assistant Engineer on the matter.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* When is it that the Chief Engineer came to know of the sale of these articles?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It is only about a month ago.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* When were these sold?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* In 1113.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Is the sale reported to the Chief Engineer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It is not necessary.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Where were these articles stocked?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* At the Hill Palace.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know who initiated this sale?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* In the Hill Palace there were several dismantled articles, old doors and shutters of windows. So the Assistant Engineer thought that it would be advisable not to keep these dismantled materials in stock and auctioned them away. In that list these parquetes were also included.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Should he not inform the Chief Engineer as to what are the articles sold?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* That used to be the rule before. But with the devolution of powers to the Assistant Engineer he was given full powers to auction all dismantled articles.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Who was the Assistant Engineer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I think it was Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar, the present Irrigation Engineer.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Is it not a fact that when selling even old rotten fountain pens in the Magistrate's Court it is advertised in the papers?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The practice in the P. W. D. so far has been to inform the public of the auction by the beat of tom tom. That was fairly satisfactory. In the Magistrate's Court the sales will be few and far between. But in the P. W. D. our auctions are numerous and it is not always possible to publish them in the newspapers, and even if it is done I do not think any better publicity could really be had.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Is the discretion you are to exercise based upon any principle *i.e.*, if articles of the value of such and such amounts are to be sold they are to be advertised?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It has to be left to the discretion of the officers concerned. In the case of dismantled materials such as doors and windows, they generally auction and the auction is confirmed by the Assistant Engineers.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* What I want to know from the Government is whether there is any principle relating to the approximate value of the articles sold in exercising that discretion?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* No value has been fixed in this matter.

OFFICERS DRAWING OVER RS. 100 IN THE HARBOUR WORKS

103. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will Government be pleased to inform.—

(*a*) the number of persons drawing over Rs. 100 that are now employed in the Harbour Works and Offices;

(*b*) how many of them are employed as temporary hands and how many permanent;

(*c*) how many have been recommended by Sir R. C. Bristow for confirmation, and how many have been confirmed before his retirement;

(*d*) will Government be pleased to give the names of those who have been recommended to be confirmed now by Mr. A. G. Milne, the present Administrative Officer and Harbour Engineer-in-Chief;

(*e*) of these,

(*i*) how many are Cochinites;
(*ii*) how many are Travancoreans;
(*iii*) how many are from Madras;
(*iv*) how many are from the rest of India;
(*v*) how many are Europeans;
(*vi*) how many are Anglo-Indians;
(*vii*) how many are Brahmins; and
(*viii*) how many are Non-Brahmins?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) 62.

(*b*) 17 permanent and 45 temporary.

(*c*) & (*d*) The recommendations are confidential and it is not in public interest to reveal their details.

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